

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

ENQUIRY INTO APPOINTMENTS MADE BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

Mr E. P. Varghese : Sir, I do not think I will be able to do justice to any of the resolutions tabled against my name within the time that is now left to us. I think it is advisable——

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Suppose this session is not prorogued; then the discussion can continue during the next session also?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai : But since there is only five minutes more, I do not think anything tangible could be done to-day.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : If it is possible to move it at the next session, I think that will be better.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : But how can we say that this meeting will be adjourned or the session prorogued? It is a matter entirely left with the Dewan.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the member moving the resolution or not?

Mr. E. P. Varghese : Sir, I move the following resolution:—

“ This Council recommends to the Government that an enquiry be held into the appointments made by the heads of departments since the Government Proceedings, R. Dis. No. 893[Gen]., dated the 25th June 1935, and those who have violated the directions laid down therein be adequately punished.”

Sir, in moving this resolution, I propose to bring to the notice of Government that they have been rather overlooking the violations by departmental heads of rules laid down with regard to the question of appointments in the public service. The Government are vigilant about many other departments and about many other rules which they issue from time to time and if such rules are violated, they appoint commissions, hold enquiries and punish the delinquents. But as far as this question is concerned, they have been issuing circulars for the last ten years and over, giving directions to the heads of departments about the method of appointments. But those circulars have been ignored with impunity. The question of appointment to the public service, as seen from the proceedings passed by the Government on the 25th June 1935, was one of the questions on which there was a very persistent agitation for a long time. It is stated in the Government proceedings that “ the question of recruitment to the public service has long been the subject of persistent agitation in Travancore and has come up again and again in the Legislature and the Press”. And Government to do justice to those classes and communities who

[Mr. E. P. Varghese.]

have been complaining that they are not properly represented in the services of the State have been issuing circulars and orders from time to time to the heads of departments saying that such communities who are inadequately represented must be given preference when qualifications are equal. I draw the attention of this House to one of such circulars or one of such declarations of policies. The Chief Secretary to Government in answer to one of the interpellations in the old Legislative Council regarding the principles in the matter of recruitment to public service said—

- “(1) No one will be eligible for admission to the public service merely on the ground that he belongs to a particular community.
- “(2) Equal opportunities will be given to all communities for entry into public service.
- “(3) Other things being equal, preference will be given to communities unrepresented or poorly represented in the public service.”

On looking through the caste-war lists of appointments which have been submitted before the House on various occasions, it will be found that this wholesome principle which the Government have loudly proclaimed and solemnly assured on many an occasion have been more observed in the breach. It is rather a sad state of things for the Government to condone violations in the case of such an important question, a question which has been, as admitted by the Government themselves, the persistent agitation for years. At last as the effect of persistent agitation the Government have been kind enough to lay definitely rules on this subject by their proceedings dated 25th June 1935 which I refer to in my resolution. They have at last brought out a definite scheme for the appointment of officers to the various departments in the State. But I have to point out to Government that even after laying down those rules and appointing a Public Service Commissioner, it is rather disappointing to see that although it is more than six months since the Commissioner was appointed, he has not yet commenced the work of recruitment. Meanwhile the departmental heads are following their own policy of circumventing the circulars and rules following their old policy of nepotism and favouritism. Sir, in this respect I do not say that all the departmental heads are equally guilty. But the appointments made by some as revealed before this House are so shocking that even the indulgent Government must open their eyes and take notice of the fact. If these rules are allowed to be violated with impunity, what is the fun of making rules? Government also, I must say, are to be blamed. Perhaps they also want to take liberties and therefore they allow heads of departments also to have some sort of liberties. But, Sir, after Government had finally come to the conclusion, published their

proceedings and appointed a Public Service Commissioner, it is not at all just, it is not at all fair to the people of this country to allow the old state of things to be continued with impunity.

The recent appointments made by the Police Commissioner is an illustration to the point. It has been brought to the notice of this House this morning how clear the inequality is.

Chairman : Mr. Varghese has taken seven minutes. The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

The Council adjourned *sine die* at 4-32 P. M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.
